



**DAMASCUS**  
**290**  
 F. & A.M.

# The TrestleBoard

*Making Good Men Better*

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## Master Mason's Degree

On May 24th, members of Damascus Lodge and a visiting Brother Jason Stitak, from John W. Barkley Lodge No. 621 Cleveland, OH, extended a warm welcome as our newest Master Mason Jason Sliwa was raised to that sublime degree that evening. We had a great night of fellowship and the degree work was fantastic. Jason

was really impressed with the degree work and enjoyed the degree greatly. Many thanks to all those who participated and our last minute fill ins. Jason took 3 years to get to this level and we look forward to him continuing to grow and participate on his Masonic journey with us.

*(More pictures on next page)*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### June

25th – Chinooks Baseball  
Game Family Outing  
Sign up by June 10th  
More details on pg. 5

27th – Lodge Officer  
Training Night

### July

17th – Lodge Picnic with  
Lake Lodge  
More details on pg. 6



Above: Jason Sliwa

Below, from left to right: Jason Stitak, P.M.; John W Barkley, Lodge No. 621; Nathan Butts, Worshipful Master; Jason Sliwa; and Michael Fairbanks, P.M.

# The Master's Message

by Worshipful Master Nathan Butts

Greetings Brethren,

As mid-year creeps up on us, we have had a busy start, and it continues with yet another Master Mason's degree, our third in a row. Grand Lodge will follow close behind. We have been busy with degree work, and men who want to be part of this fraternity are taking the time to try to be a part of this great organization.

Take a moment to reflect: what makes you a Mason, and why did you become one? Each and every one of us has a different reason. We all have weaknesses, vices, and superfluties in life, but it's this brotherhood and our support for each other that helps us get through them and become a better man. Think about what made you want to become a Mason and why you wanted to join. At the next meeting, look at all the guys around you and know they are there to help you, and you to help them. You work and grow together, and improve both the Lodge and yourselves with the good things you represent, the good things you strive for, and the good things that come from the kindness you express to those around you.

I encourage you, no matter what degree you have reached, to go back, review your ties, think about that obligation, and how can you apply that more and more each day to reach new heights in your personal and professional lives. Or think about how you can inspire others around you through your actions to make them want to do the same because they can see how you have improved.

With that good, as always there is the negative. When you see it, speak up, correct it, whisper that good council, help others, make all those around you better, and you will raise the bar. You will inspire everyone to do better each day, and in doing so, you wipe those vices and superfluties away.

Paying it forward comes back tenfold. You as an individual can change the world and make a difference by being the person others are inspired to be, just by being a good man, a better man. See you in Lodge: be there and be square.



Nathan Butts  
Worshipful Master  
worshipful.master@d1290.org

# "I'm just a Sideliner"

by Bro. Brian Bertram, Junior Warden

"I'm just a Sideliner." It's a phrase I hear often, but being so is a responsibility as important as any of our Lodge officers. As a sideliner, have you weighed your responsibilities, or given thought to how truly important you are to the Lodge? Do you remember your charge?

Lodge officers are always looking to improve the functionality of the Lodge. We look for financial security, different and interesting events, continuity and harmony within the Lodge, and community exposure and outreach. The officers cannot do it alone, although many sideliners believe that since sideliners do not hold an office, they do not have a voice. Or that if they speak up with an idea, they would be automatically in charge of the notion or be signaled to be placed "in the line." This assumption cannot be further from the reality. Everyone is on the level in Lodge, and all brothers have a voice.

New Master Masons and seasoned members alike all contribute to the Lodge by being "active." By being active, I don't mean being in the line for officer duties; I mean attending meetings where your ideas can be considered in

improving our Lodge. After an event (which our Lodge strives to succeed in) and during reports, voice a critique on the event to better it, or better yet, come up with a new event or idea for activities, of which we may ask for your help in implementing. During the end Masters Year, the Lodge presents, and votes on, a budget for the next year. This is an important responsibility for all Lodge members.

Listen in Lodge to the financial reports, event reports, charity outreach, and Grand Lodge and blue Lodge business. By doing so, one can be active by just being informed alone in the workings of the Lodge.

Watch the officers, their memorization, and floor work. By doing so, if at some time you wish to enter the line as an officer, you will have somewhat of an idea of what to expect. Or if you wish to participate in degree work or memorize a lecture for a degree, you do not have to be an officer to do so. Remember that all degree practices are open for your attendance, as long as you have the degree being practiced. We are always looking for more people to participate in degrees.

Participate in Lodge by attending meetings, events, Annual Communications, visitations, or help with a committee, and attend degrees. Be a sideliner, but be an active sideliner. There is nothing more impressive to a new candidate than being brought to light with two full rows to welcome him.

All Lodges, in my opinion, have tended to get stale. We need new, fresh ideas to continue to make Damascus a standout Lodge in the Masonic world in Wisconsin. As a "sideliner" you can continue to realize just that. I realize business meetings can get long and drawn out, but we are shortening our meetings, condensing what can be, and in my observances, have a laugh or two along the way.

The future of our Lodge doesn't just rest on the officers; it relies upon the membership to assist in the success of the Lodge. If you have been coming to Lodge meetings, a big thanks to you. If you haven't been to Lodge in a while, come on back and see the fun and important work our Lodge does. We miss you ... and you are an important part of our Lodge family.

# Play Ball!

*Join us for an evening of baseball!*



**June 25th @  
5:00 pm**



**Kapco Park  
Concordia University  
12800 N. Lake Shore Dr.  
Mequon, WI**

**\$5.00 per person  
Kids 17 & under FREE!**

RSVP to Bro. Dale at  
[treasurer@dl290.org](mailto:treasurer@dl290.org)  
by June 10th, 8:00 am



# **DAMASCUS-LAKE LODGE PICNIC**

**July 17th @ 1:00 pm  
Wilson Park**

**Bring a dish to pass!**

**Sign up with Matt Hanchek  
[senior.deacon@dl290.org](mailto:senior.deacon@dl290.org)**

# Echoes from the West

by Bro. Michael Fairbanks, Senior Warden

## The Cement of Brotherly Love

In 2009, our new Grand Master chose the trowel for his choice of tools. The trowel, as all Speculative Masons know, is the tool by which the cement of brotherly love and affection are spread.

The cement of the Operative Mason is composed of several components and chemicals to bind stone and brick. So too is the cement of brotherly love and affection: composed of many moral principles that bind Masonic brethren. Respect and harmony being important as parts of the components that make up our cement.

We meet and greet each other on the street with the utmost respect and the highest regard for each other as Masons. We are especially polite and courteous to each other when in public while attending Lodge functions and when we are with our ladies.

Masons are the first to lend a hand or assist someone in trouble. Perhaps we are aiding someone

who just needs a bit of help maneuvering around an obstacle, especially brother Masons, as it is part of our commitment to each other. We do so with the utmost respect and brotherly love toward each other.

As with all families, and as we come to know each other and become closer through Lodge and our Lodge outings, we become comfortable in our associations and dealings with each other. These are the times when we tend to let our guard down and perhaps say something that comes out wrong or can be taken the wrong way.

When in Lodge, we at Damascus #290 are courteous and respectful toward each other at all times. This is also the time when we are most likely to let slip an untimely or discordant remark borne out of frustration; however, it is usually quickly overlooked, and we move on with business as usual.

Summer is descending upon us at warp speed. At a time when all other Lodges are going dark, we

at Damascus will continue our work and bring more good men to light, pass and then raise them to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

As we bring new Masons into our family fold, we need to be ever vigilant that we do not let discordant passions or the occasional bad remark creep into our associations with each other, especially when we are involved with new prospects, candidates, and new Master Masons. If we allow ourselves the indulgence of snide or malicious comments, or even an off-hand joke, the cement of brotherly love crumbles.

Finally, we have a great and wonderful Lodge, one that I am so very proud to be a part of. We work hard, we play hard, and practice Freemasonry as it should be practiced: with respect and brotherly love. It is my hope for the future that we continue to grow and have the bonds of brotherhood and friendship continue and expand.

# 2016 Lodge Officers

## Worshipful Master

Nathan Butts  
worshipful.master@dl290.org

## Senior Warden

Michael L. Fairbanks, P.M.  
senior.warden@dl290.org

## Junior Warden

Brian Bertram  
junior.warden@dl290.org

## Treasurer

Dale A. Graeven, P.M.  
treasurer@dl290.org

## Secretary

Patrick J. Militzer, P.M.  
secretary@dl290.org

Chaplain Michael Meyer, P.M.

Senior Deacon Matt Hanchek

Junior Deacon (Vacant)

Senior Steward Don O'Kray

Junior Steward Chris Balke

Counselor Sean Schult, P.M.

Tiler Larry Chadderdon, P.M.

Degree Director Mick Olson, P.M.

## Lodge Trustees

Matthew Wright, P.M. (2016)  
414-254-5677

Dale A. Graeven, P.M. (2017)  
414-852-4838

Matt Hanchek (2018)  
414-418-8229

## Sick and Visitation Chairperson

Michael Fairbanks, P.M.  
414-397-0330  
senior.warden@dl290.org

## Master's Board

Keep those petitions coming in. The Master's Board President, Mick Olson, and Master's Board Secretary, Curt Campagna, would like to remind you to keep an eye out for new candidates for the Lodge.



## Damascus Lodge No. 290 F. & A.M.

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*The Real Secret of Freemasonry –  
Making Good Men Better*